## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-4. (Canceled).
- 5. (Cancelled).
- 6. (Canceled).
- 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the first remote device and the second remote device corresponds to a portable device.
- 8. (Canceled).
- 9. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the operation of an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving, at the appliance, first access data from memory of a first remote device, the first access data providing network access to first configuration data corresponding to a first set of user preferences on an external network;

receiving at the appliance at least a portion of the first configuration data via the network access;

configuring the appliance to a first configuration in accordance with the at least a portion of the first configuration data:

receiving, at the appliance, second access data to the appliance from a memory of a second remote device, the second access data providing network access to second configuration data corresponding to a second set of user preferences on the external network;

receiving at the appliance at least a portion of the second configuration data via the network access; and

reconfiguring the appliance to a second configuration in accordance with the at least a portion of the second configuration data,

wherein:

receiving the at least the portion of the first configuration data includes:

receiving first relay data responsive to an external network server identified in the first access data, and

receiving the at least a portion of the first configuration data made accessible via the network access by the first relay data; and

receiving the at least the portion of the second configuration data includes:

receiving second relay data responsive to an external network server identified in the second access data, and

receiving the at least a portion of the second configuration data made accessible via the network access by the second relay data,

and wherein reconfiguring the appliance includes creating a composite of the portion of the first configuration data and the portion of the second configuration data.

- 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second remote devices corresponds to a radio frequency identification device.
- 11. (Canceled).
- 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein delivering the first and second access data includes co-locating the radio frequency identification device with the appliance.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first configuration data includes configuration data relating to the appliance and configuration data relating to another type of appliance.
- 14-21. (Cancelled).
- 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 A method of controlling the operation of an appliance, the method comprising:

  receiving, at the appliance, first access data from memory of a first remote device, the first access data providing network

access to first configuration data corresponding to a first set of
user preferences on an external network;
receiving at the appliance at least a portion of the first
configuration data via the network access;
configuring the appliance to a first configuration in
accordance with the at least a portion of the first configuration
data;
receiving, at the appliance, second access data to the
appliance from a memory of a second remote device, the second
access data providing network access to second configuration data
corresponding to a second set of user preferences on the external
<pre>network;</pre>
receiving at the appliance at least a portion of the
second configuration data via the network access; and
reconfiguring the appliance to a second configuration in
accordance with the at least a portion of the second configuration
data,
wherein:
receiving the at least the portion of the first
configuration data includes:
receiving first relay data responsive to an external
network server identified in the first access data, and
receiving the at least a portion of the first
configuration data made accessible via the network access by the
first relay data; and

receiving the at least the portion of the second
configuration data includes:
receiving second relay data responsive to an external
network server identified in the second access data, and
receiving the at least a portion of the second
configuration data made accessible via the network access by the
second relay data,
wherein each of the first and second remote devices
corresponds to a radio frequency identification device,
wherein delivering the first and second access data
includes co-locating the radio frequency identification device with
the appliance,
and wherein the method further including comprises:
reconfiguring the appliance to the first configuration
after removal of the second remote device from a vicinity of the
appliance.

- 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including measuring a time duration after the removal of the second remote device, and wherein reconfiguring the appliance to the first configuration occurs when the time duration exceeds a predefined persistence period.
- 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first access data includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) associated with a relay server.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the second access data includes an other Uniform Resource Locator (URL) associated with an other relay server.